

# INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY COMPETITION RULES

*(Revised November 2011)*

## I. GENERAL

1.1 These rules apply to all photographic competitions sponsored by the International Photographic Society (IPS). They are adopted, and may be amended, in the same manner as the IPS By-Laws.

1.2 Only members of the IPS can participate in IPS-sponsored competitions.

1.3 The following are competitions sponsored by the IPS:

**Monthly competitions;**  
**Preselection competition;**  
**Annual Exhibition competition;**

1.4 The competitions are held under the responsibility of the Chairperson for Competitions; or, in his or her absence, the person designated for the purpose by the President, except for the Annual Exhibition Competition, which is held under the responsibility for the Chairperson for Special Events. All decisions of the person responsible for a competition shall be final, except that a contestant dissatisfied with a decision of the responsible person may request, not later than two weeks after the decision, a ruling by the Executive Council, whose decision shall be final.

1.5 For all electronic image competitions, submitted image files, not to exceed 1.5 MB in size, must be in JPEG format (i.e. with JPG extension) and in sRGB color space (even if monochrome) with a maximum horizontal size of 1400 pixels and maximum vertical size of 1050 pixels.

1.6 For all print competitions, prints must be mounted on a board not exceeding 20 x 20 inches, with the print not exceeding 17 x 17 inches. A print must have a white overlay matt securely fixed to the mount.

1.7 Unless otherwise notified, contestants must submit electronic images to IPS by email only, as file attachments (not embedded) no later than midnight on the Saturday immediately preceding the competition day. Confirmation emails will be sent at least 24 hours before the competition. Three weeks after the competition date images will be deleted except for winning images, which shall be kept for archival and promotional purposes.

1.8 Unless otherwise notified, contestants must deliver their print entries to the Chairperson at least half an hour before the competitions commence. Entries must be collected by the contestant after the competitions are held. Any uncollected entries will be retained by the Chairperson without any liability whatsoever for their safekeeping.

1.9 In any competition, the image presented must be, or be based on, an original photograph or combination of photographs taken by the member. A contestant may enter only one picture of essentially the same image. No other picture taken at about the same time, of the same subject, from the same position, and under similar lighting, may be entered in the same competition.

1.10 The IPS shall exercise all reasonable care in the handling and storage of entries, but the IPS accepts no responsibility for any loss of, or damage to, an entry.

## II. MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

2.1 The Executive Council determines and publishes before the beginning of the season, which runs from September through May:

- (a) the dates of the monthly competitions may be changed and members notified in the course of the season if this becomes necessary in the judgment of the Executive Council;
- (b) the type of competitions such as prints, and electronic by class that will be held each month, as well as the theme;
- (c) the maximum number of entries which each contestant may submit each month is 5. The maximum entry in each media is limited to 3.

2.2 A picture should be entered in an IPS monthly competition no more than three times in one calendar year. Winners from a monthly competition, including honorable mentions, cannot be resubmitted. Winners from the Preselection competition can no longer be entered in monthly competitions.

2.2 Contestants are divided into two classes: Class B and Class A.  
Class B will comprise:

- (a) members who have never entered a competition in the IPS;
- (b) members who have won fewer than thirteen awards while competing in Class B.

Class A will comprise:

- (a) members who have been promoted from Class B as having won thirteen awards while competing in Class B; and
- (b) members to whom Rule 2.4 applies.

2.3 Class A members, who rejoin the IPS after an absence, will retain the class standing at the time of their departure.

2.4 Competitions may be held within each class or between all classes combined. For the purposes of determining the classes and movements between classes, awards won in the monthly competitions, the Annual Exhibition, and the Preselection competition are taken into account.

2.5 Points System: Regardless of the number of entries submitted, each contestant entering a monthly competition receives 5 points – even if there are not enough entries to actually hold that competition.

2.6 IPS awards are given for the best fifteen percent (rounded to the nearest whole number) of entries in each competition or in each class within a competition that is run in classes. These awards, and the points they earn are:

- (a) Places, meaning those pictures judged first, second and third which earn 5, 3, and 2 points respectively; and
- (b) Honorable Mentions, meaning all other pictures selected for award which earn 1 point each

2.7 If, in any competition, there are fewer than five entries, or fewer than three contestants, there shall be no competition. If this is the case in class competitions, entries received for Class B shall be included with the entries of Class A; entries received for Class A will be displayed without competition.

### **III. THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION**

3.1 For each season, the Executive Council shall determine or delegate the Manager of the Annual Exhibition to determine:

- a. the dates of the Annual Exhibition;

- b. the total number of prints to be exhibited, the maximum number of electronic images, or prints members may submit for Preselection, and the number of pictures to be chosen by Preselection;
- c. the members of the Preselection panel and the Annual Exhibition jury;
- d. the deadline for submitting pictures;
- e. the amount to be paid by members to cover the cost of printing, mounting, handling, and other costs associated with the Annual Exhibition.

3.2 The Annual Exhibition shall consist of one single category, irrespective of the original media of the photograph.

3.3 The following entries submitted by members shall be exhibited and shall be considered for award:

- (a) All winners of awards in monthly competitions since the last Annual Exhibition;
- (b) All electronic images and prints submitted by members, which have been selected by the Preselection panel.

3.4 A picture may not be exhibited more than once, even if entered in a different category, or if it qualifies under a different rule (e.g., a picture exhibited as an electronic image one year may not be exhibited as a print in another year, a monthly winner may not be exhibited as such one year, and be submitted to the Annual Exhibit Preselection panel in another year).

3.5 Annual Exhibition Competition. All entries will be judged in one category. Fifteen percent of the entries will receive awards, which shall be, at a maximum, a first, second, and third place, and as many honorable mentions (not ranked among themselves) as required to give awards to fifteen percent of entries.

3.6 Winners of places or honorable mentions in the Preselection competition as well as the Annual Exhibit win points as in Rule 3.7 below.

3.7 Points system for non-monthly competitions: winners of places or honorable mentions in the Annual Exhibition, the Preselection competitions, or any other competition sponsored by the IPS, will be awarded points as follows:

- (a) for first, second, and third place winners: 7, 5 and 4 points respectively;
- (b) for honorable mentions: 2 points

#### **IV. PHOTOGRAPH/ROOKIE OF THE YEAR**

4.1 At the end of the season, points earned by each member in a season are added. The member awarded the highest number of points in the season will be declared Photographer of the Year. Second and third place awards will also be made.

4.2 New members who have joined the IPS during the current or the previous season shall be eligible for the Rookie of the Year award. Members who, at any time previously, have attained Class A status are not eligible.

4.3 Second and third place awards will also be made. If the Rookie of the Year also has enough points to qualify for first place in the Photographer of the Year he/she will be declared Photographer of the Year and the Rookie of the Year award will go to the eligible members with the next highest points. If the Rookie of the Year also has enough points to qualify for second or third place in the Photographer of the Year award he/she will be declared Rookie of the Year; and second and third places will then go to the members, as define in paragraph 4.2, with the next highest points.

**(Adopted March 1966, and amended August 1966, March 1968, October 1969, October 1971, September 1979, November 1979, September 1981, May 1984, October 1986, February 1987, February 1988, March 1989, October 1989, May 1991, September 1991, May 1992, May 1998, June 2000, May 2004, August 2007, and March 2008, August 2009, and November 2011)**